

Claims

1. A method of enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications,  
5        characterised by the step of;  
         transmitting from the first portion of a network two representations of an encoded signal, the encoded signal  
10        produced by a codec of the first portion of a network (hereinafter 'first codec'), the two representations respectively comprising;  
         i.    the encoded signal produced by the first codec (hereinafter 'first encoded signal'); and  
15        ii.   a parameter translation of the first encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with a single common compressed voice codec (CCVC) format (hereinafter 'common encoded signal').
- 20   2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and the second portion of a network suitable for voice communications are part of the same overall network.
- 25   3. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of;  
         transmitting the two representations of the encoded signal to the second portion of a network via a wired link.
- 30   4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the wired link is part of a public switched telephone network.

A method according to claim 3 wherein the wired link is part of a packet switched network.

5     5.     A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an identifier unique to the type of the first codec is also transmitted.

6.     A method of enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice  
10    communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications,

characterised by the steps of;

receiving from the first portion of a network two representations of an encoded signal, the encoded signal  
15    produced by a codec of the first portion of a network (hereinafter 'first codec'), the two representations respectively comprising;

- i.     the encoded signal produced by the first codec (hereinafter 'first encoded signal'); and
  - 20    ii.   a parameter translation of the first encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with a single common compressed voice codec (CCVC) format (hereinafter 'common encoded signal'); and
- determining whether the first codec is compatible with  
25    a codec of the second portion of a network (hereinafter 'second codec').

7.     A method according to claim 6 wherein the determination comprises comparing a unique codec type  
30    identifier also received from the first portion of a network with a unique codec type identifier for the second codec.

8. A method according to any one of claims 6 and 7 wherein if the first and second codecs are determined to be compatible, then the first encoded signal is selected for further transmission by the second portion of the network.

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9. A method according to any one of claims 6 and 7 wherein if the first and second codecs are determined not to be compatible, then a parameter translation of the common encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with the second codec (hereinafter 'second encoded signal') is performed.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the second encoded signal is then selected for further transmission by the second portion of the network.

11. Apparatus for enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications according to a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, and comprising;

translation means for translating a first encoded signal into a common encoded signal.

12. Apparatus for enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications according to a method as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 10, and comprising;

translation means for translating a common encoded signal into second encoded signal.

13. A method according to claim 1 and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

- 5 14. A method according to claim 6 and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.